

2011

FAMILY UPDATE



STATE SENATOR

MIKE GREEN

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Use the QR reader on your
smartphone to go directly to
www.StateSenatorMikeGreen.com

Dear Friend:

In today's challenging world, the strength and support of our families are more important than ever. Strong families are not only the backbone of our neighborhoods and communities, they are the hope for our future.

I am pleased to update you on several pro-family issues that may be of interest. Please contact me toll-free at 866-305-2131 or by e-mail at senmgreen@senate.michigan.gov if you would like further information on any of these topics or if you have any questions or concerns.

It is my honor and privilege to serve the families of the 31st District and I will continue to work hard on your behalf.

My best wishes for a beautiful Michigan fall!

Sincerely,

State Senator Mike Green



Keep up with the latest news from Lansing.
Sign up for my FREE e-news update at
senmgreen@senate.michigan.gov

Green Affirms Life as Co-Sponsor of Bill to Ban Partial Birth Abortion

As a lawmaker, I want to do all I can to protect our most innocent, our unborn.

That's why I co-sponsored a bill to prohibit partial birth abortion. You may remember previous efforts, both legislation and a citizen initiative, were vetoed by a prior governor or overturned by federal courts.

Now signed into law, Public Act 168 of 2011 (Senate Bill 160) was drafted to meet the legal standard by using language virtually identical to the federal partial birth abortion law that was upheld in 2007 by the U.S. Supreme Court. Public Act 169 of 2011 (House Bill 4110) provides sentencing guidelines.

Putting language in state law will allow the Michigan attorney general and county prosecutors to prosecute this awful procedure without being dependent on federal action – or inaction. The effective date is January 1, 2012.



“As a lawmaker, I want to do all I can to protect our most innocent, our unborn.”

— Mike Green

SENATE BILL PROTECTS RELIGIOUS SERVICES

Freedom of religion is one of our most fundamental and cherished rights. It's hard to believe some people would enter a house of worship with the express intent of disrupting a service.

I supported legislation earlier this year that would prohibit this type of disturbance and increase the penalties for doing so. Under Senate Bill 19, possible criminal penalties could discourage any person or group looking to further its own agenda by intimidating the faithful at a church service.

In the past few years, there have been several instances in which organized groups disrupted worship services, including a widely publicized incident at a mid-Michigan church.

The bill has been sent to the House for consideration.

Green Supports Resolution to Save State Millions of Dollars

Earlier this year, Senate Republicans said no to millions of dollars in new fringe benefits to state employees.

In adopting Senate Concurrent Resolution 9, the Senate rejected the Civil Service Commission's decision to expand healthcare benefits to unrelated adults and their dependents living with a state employee. Such an action could open the state treasury to millions of dollars in new claims!

In the face of severe state budget constraints and at a time when private employee compensation has dramatically declined, it is unfair and unreasonable to expect taxpayers to pick up the bill for expanding state worker benefits to domestic partners.

Unfortunately, the House was unable to secure enough votes to stop the rule from going into effect.



PLATE PURCHASE HELPS PROTECT CHILDREN AT RISK

Motorists can help support programs aimed at protecting Michigan children through the purchase of a Children's Trust Fund license plate.

The colorful plate features a child's handprints as Michigan's two peninsulas.



The cost of the plate is \$35, with \$25 going to the Children's Trust Fund. Sales and renewals have generated nearly \$2 million for the Trust Fund since 2001. The money provides funding to local councils to help prevent child abuse and neglect.

More information on the plate is available at www.michigan.gov/sos.

A Lifeline for Phone Service

Even in the digital age, telephones are an important link to family, friends and community services, especially for the elderly.

Yet a tight budget can make it difficult to pay for this service. Individuals who cannot afford the monthly cost of a home phone may be eligible for Lifeline telephone service discounts.

To qualify, household income must be at or below 150 percent of the federal poverty guidelines (\$16,335 for a one-person household; \$22,065 for a two-person household) or the customer must participate in an assistance program such as Medicaid or SSI.

Eligible customers should contact their local telephone provider to apply.



STRENGTHENING CHILD PROTECTION LAWS

Like children everywhere, a child in state care deserves a safe home.

Senate legislation now signed into law will strengthen the review process when a child dies in foster care, under court jurisdiction or after involvement with Child Protective Services.

Public Act 69 of 2011 (SB 226) establishes a publicly accessible registry of non-identifying information regarding children's deaths. Public Act 70 (SB 228) makes sure a court having jurisdiction in a suspected child abuse or neglect case has access to the appropriate information in the event of the child's death.

There have been several heartbreaking deaths of vulnerable children in recent years. I am hopeful the new laws will help us avoid similar tragedies.

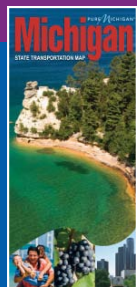
SENATE SEEKS TO CLARIFY MEDICAL MARIJUANA LAW

In 2008, Michigan voters authorized the use of medical marijuana out of compassion for those with terminal illness or chronic pain.

Unfortunately, too many people are taking advantage of the law at the expense of those who truly need care. Among reported abuses, the Michigan State Police has recently identified problems

with out-of-state growers who take up temporary residence, secure a medical marijuana card, start grow operations and then sell the "crop" back in their home state.

The Senate is looking at legislation to clarify the law and close existing loopholes.



STATE MAP

The online 2011 State Transportation map features an interactive guide to Michigan roadside parks and scenic turnouts and is available at

www.michigan.gov/mdot.

Or, to receive a free print copy, please contact my office toll-free at 1-866-305-2131.



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Useful Web Resources

Compare drug prices www.michigandrugprices.com

Do Not Call registry www.donotcall.gov

Product recalls/safety alerts www.cpsc.gov

Road construction www.michigan.gov/laneclosures

Child health insurance www.michigan.gov/michild

GREEN BACKS BILL TO ESTABLISH PATRIOT WEEK

With the 10th anniversary of September 11 fresh in our hearts, I want to tell you about a proposal that would help us honor the spirit and strength of America every year.

Under Senate Bill 282, a special observance called Patriot Week would begin on September 11 and conclude on September 17, Constitution Day. The week-long observance would encourage Michigan citizens to honor key historical figures, founding documents, and symbols of our country.

I believe Patriot Week activities would provide a great opportunity for all of us to gain a better understanding of what makes the USA the greatest nation in history.

The bill has been sent to the House for consideration.

